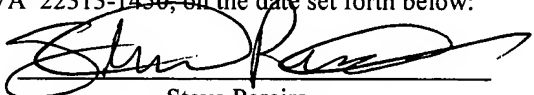


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Pepinsky et al.	Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Serial No: Not yet assigned	Examiner: Not yet assigned
Filed: March 16, 2004	Docket No.: BII-008.02
For: Polymer Conjugates of Interferon Beta-1a and Uses	

Mail Stop Patent Application
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<u>March 16, 2004</u> Date of Signature and Mail Deposit	By:  Steve Pereira

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 1 line 3, with the following replacement paragraph:

This application is a continuation of application S.N. 09/832,658 filed April 11, 2001, which is a continuation of PCT/US99/24201, filed on October 15, 1999 as a continuations-in-part of prior U.S. Provisional S.N. 60/104,572 filed October 16, 1998 and U.S. Provisional S.N. 60/120,161 filed February 16, 1999. The teachings of the earlier-filed patent applications are incorporated herein by reference.